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Attorney for Plaintiff,
MICHELLE LOUISE MASSA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MICHELLE LOUISE MASSA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:22-cv-00292-JDP

STIPULATION AND ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER
RE ATTORNEY FEES

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$2,153.14) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2412(d).

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to his counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset.

Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses, and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered to Plaintiff's counsel.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's claim for EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or counsel, including counsel's firm, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

This award is without prejudice to the rights of counsel and/or counsel's firm to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

WEEMS LAW OFFICES

PHILLIP A. TALBERT
United States Attorney
MATTHEW W. PILE
Associate General Council
Office of Program Litigation, Office 7
Social Security Administration
ELINOR R. CODER
Special Assistant United States Attorney

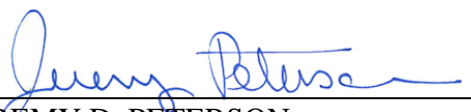
/s/Robert C. Weems
ROBERT C. WEEMS,
Attorney for Plaintiff
MICHELLE LOUISE MASSA

By: /s/ Elinor R. Coder
Elinor R. Coder
Sp. Asst. U.S. Attorney,
Attorney for Defendant
(per email authorization 10/28/22)

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 3, 2022


JEREMY D. PETERSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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